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FROM: BONN

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 677, SEPTEMBER 22, 5 PM

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Authorized By: M. D. Brewster

August 4, 1975

Control: 13882

Rec'd: SEPTEMBER 22, 1958

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NUMBER: EC 9-4696, SEPTEMBER 10/1156Z

SENT CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG REPEATED INFO JCS WASHDC USCOB
BERLIN AMEMBASSZ BONN ASNMR PARIS

CATEGORY AC. NOFORN JCS PASS TO ASD/ISA FOR INFO.

FOR HODES. FROM NORSTAD.

REFERENCE: A. BERLIN DEPT 156 DTD 19 AUG 58 ✓
B. DEF 946912 DTD 22 AUG 58; C. EC9-4430 DTD 23 AUG 58

SUBJECT IS STEINTUECKEN.

1. MY UNDERSTANDING OF THE FACTS IS AS FOLLOWS: STEINSTUECKEN IS AN ENCLAVE ABOUT THREE ACRES IN SIZE BELONGING TO THE ZEHLENDORF DISTRICT OF WEST BERLIN, BUT SEPARATED THEREFROM BY 1000 METERS OF EAST GERMAN TERRITORY. THE VILLAGE HAS 189 INHABITANTS. PERMANENT PASSES FROM THE EAST GERMAN POLICE ALLOW THEM TO GO BACK AND FORTH TO WEST BERLIN. THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPEAT NO WEST BERLIN POLICE STATIONED IN STEINSTUECKEN SINCE THE OCCUPATION BEGAN IN 1945, EXCEPT DURING A SINGLE ONE-WEEK PERIOD WHEN TWO WEST BERLIN POLICE WERE PLACED THERE AND WITHDRAWN. THE EAST GERMAN POLICE HAVE NOT RPT NOT INTERFERED WITH THE NORMAL LIFE OF STEINSTUECKEN NOR BLOCKED MAIL AND FIRE DEPARTMENT SERVICE FROM ZEHLENDORF TO STEINSTUECKEN. ON 7 AUG 58, HOWEVER, EAST GERMAN POLICE ENTERED STEINSTUECKEN, ARRESTED A REFUGEE FROM EAST GERMANY, AND DEPARTED. IT IS NOT REPT NOT CLAIMED THAT ANY INHABITANT OF STEINSTUECKEN WAS MOLESTED OR HIS PROPERTY DAMAGED.

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2. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND OF A LONG ESTABLISHED MODUS VIVENDI THE OPINION IS EXPRESSED, IN REFERENCED, THAT FUTURE TRANSGRESSIONS SHOULD BE DEALT WITH RAPIDLY AND EFFECTIVELY. TO THIS END IT IS PROPOSED TO GIVE USCGB PRIOR AUTHORITY TO TAKE SUCH ACTION AS THE SITUATION WARRANTS. IT APPEARS THAT, IN THE CASE OF AN INCIDENT, HE PLANS TO INITIATE ACTION BY MOVING A SQUAD INTO STEINSTUECKEN BY HELICOPTER; AND IN THE EVENT THE SQUAD PROVES INADEQUATE, TO ORDER SUFFICIENT FORCE OVERLAND TO ACCOMPLISH THE MISSION.

3. THE FACTS, AS I UNDERSTAND THEM, DO NOT LEAD ME TO CONCLUDE THAT THE ACTION RECOMMENDED, IF IT HAD BEEN TAKEN IN CONNECTION WITH THE 7 AUGUST DEVELOPMENT, COULD HAVE PREVENTED THE INCIDENT OR COULD HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE RESTORATION OF U.S. PRESTIGE. THE EAST GERMAN POLICE WOULD HAVE DEPARTED WITH THEIR PRISONER BEFORE THE U.S. TROOPS ARRIVED, SO THAT NO RESULT COULD HAVE ACCRUED BUT AN INCREASINGLY LARGE AND INCREASINGLY PROVOCATIVE MILITARY CONFRONTATION OVER A FAIT ACCOMPLI IN WHICH NO RPT NO BONA FIDE INHABITANT OF STEINSTUECKEN HAD BEEN MOLESTED.

I AM, OF COURSE, IMPRESSED WITH THE VIEWS OF AMBASSADOR BRUCE AND YOURSELF, AND AWARE OF THE PARTICULAR RESPONSIBILITIES THAT YOU BEAR IN CONNECTION WITH STEINSTUECKEN. ON THE OTHER HAND, I DO NOT RPT NOT FEEL THAT I CAN RECOMMEND TO THE JCS A CHANGE IN OUR NATIONAL POLICY WHICH WOULD INVOLVE ONLY "AFTER THE FACT" ACTIONS WHICH WOULD SERVE NEITHER TO PREVENT AN INCIDENT FROM OCCURRING NOR CONTRIBUTE TO THE POSITION OF STRENGTH OF THE UNITED STATES, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OR THE PEOPLE OF BERLIN.

I REMAIN OPEN TO FURTHER DISCUSSION, AND I WOULD BE PARTICULARLY PLEASED TO HEAR ANY PROPOSALS WHICH WOULD IMPROVE OUR SITUATION BEFORE THE FACT, AND WHICH WOULD NOT BE UNDULY PROVOCATIVE.

BRUCE

HLH

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